9th August 1966] *[திரு. எம். பக்தவத்சலம்]*

பொறுக்குக் குழுவில் இருக்கிறார்கள், அவர்கள் கவனித்து இயன்ற அளவு திருத்தம் வேண்டுமென்றால் செய்வார்கள் என்று நம்புகிறேன். இம்மசோதாவிற்கு ஆதரவு அளித்ததற்காக மன்ற உறுப்பினர்களுக்கு மீண்டும் நன்றி தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டு இந்த மோஷனை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is—

' That the concurrence of the Legislative Council be obtained for setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses, consisting of 18 members (12 members of the Legislative Assembly and 6 members of the Legislative Council) to consider the Madras Private Educational Institution (Regulation) Bill, 1966 (L.A. Bill No. 14 of 1966) and that the following members of the Legislative Assembly be selected to serve on such a Joinnt Select Committee :—

Sri M. S. Selvarajan.
Sri R. S. Arumugam.
Sri M. Alagiriswamy.
Srimathi A. Suares.
Sri G. Rajaram.
Sri N. Mahalingam.
Sri P. Ramachandran.
Sri K. A. Mathialagan.
Pulavar K. Govindan.
Sri A. P. Dharmalingam.
Sri Rama. Arangannal.
Sri Saw. Ganesan, '

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER : Under Rule 139 (1) of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the Hon. Chief Minister as a member of the Joint Select Committee.

III.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS—*cont.*

(3) AMENDMENT TO RULE UNDER THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES ACT, 1920.

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID : Sir, I move—

' That the following draft of an amendment to sub-rule (1) of rule 8 of Schedule IV to the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 (Madras Act V of 1920) proposed to be made by the Governor of Madras under sub-section (1) of Section 305 of the said Act be approved '.

DRAFT.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 305 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 (Madras Act

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V of 1920), the Governor of Madras hereby makes the following rule altering Schedule IV to the said Act :—

*Rule*

In rule 8 of Schedule IV to the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 (Madras Act V of 1920), after sub-rule (1), the following sub-rule shall be inserted, namely :—

' (1-A) (*a*) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (1), the State Government may, for sufficient cause, from time to time, by order,—

(i) postpone the general revision of assessment books, or

(ii) stay the proceedings relating to the general revision of assessment books,

for a period of one or more half-years at a time but not exceeding in any case four half-years :

Provided that such postponement or stay shall not affect any subsequent general revision of assessment books.

(*b*) Where the stay is vacated or the period of stay expires, the State Government may direct that proceedings for the general revision of assessment books shall be either commenced *de novo* or continued from the stage at which such proceedings were stayed.'

Under Rule 8 (1) of Schedule IV to the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the assessbent books of property shall be completely revised by the Executive Authority once in every five years. In connection with the recent revisions made by certain municipalities, a large number of representations have been received by the Government from the ratepayers in a number of municipalities and from certain municipal councils stating that the quinquennial revision of property tax made with effect from 1st April 1966 has been unduly high and arbitrary, that the matter should be carefully re-examined and that the revision should be postponed. Schedule IV aforesaid as it stands does not empower the Government to postpone the quinquennial revision of property tax.

In the case of the Corporation of Madras, there is, however, a provision empowering the Government to direct the Commissioner that the general revision of assessment books, which is to be made in any year, shall be postponed for such period as they think fit and that such postponement shall not affect subsequent general revisions. It is therefore considered necessary and desirable that in the case of the District Municipalities also, power should be taken for the Government to direct for sufficient cause the postponement of the general revision. Accordingly it is proposed to make a provision in the Madras District Municipalities Act empowering the Government to postpone the general revision of assessment books or stay the proceedings relating to the general revision of assessment books for a period of one or more half-years at a time but not exceeding in any case four half-years. It is further proposed to provide that such postponement or stay shall not affect any subsequent general revision of assessment books. Provision is also proposed to be made

so as to empower the Government to direct that the proceedings for the general revision of assessment books shall be either commenced *de novo* or continued from the stage at which the proceedings were stayed, where the stay is vacated or the period of stay expires.

Under section 305-A of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, adraft of the proposed rules shall be laid before each of the Houses of the State Legislature and their approval obtained. I ask for the approval of the House accordingly.

The motion was put and carried.

VI—GOVERNMENT BILLS—*cont.*

(4) THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES BILL, 1966 (L.A. BILL NO. 12 OF 1966).

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

'That the Madras District Municipalities Bill *, 1966 (L.A. Bill No. 12 of 1966) be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.'

The traditions of local self-Government are very old in this State. The pattern of municipal administration in vogue at present has existed for over a century. Municipal administration in its present form was inaugurated in the then Madras Presidency in 1850 with the enactment of the Improvements in Towns Act (India Act XXVI of 1850).

Subsequently several amendments to the law relating to municipal administration were made; but in 1884, a marked improvement in the constitution and powers of Municipal Councils was made and the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1884, was passed.

The report of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation published in 1909 recommended relaxation of Governmental control over local authorities, putting the finances of the local authorities on a sound footing and placing the number of elected members on a substantial basis. The real stimulus for local self-goverment came with the publication of the Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms in 1919. Local Self-Government became a transferred subject in the diarchical system of Government introduced in the provinces under the Government of India Act, 1919. The District Municipalities Act of 1884 was repealed in 1920 and a new Act was enacted. This new Act introduced major changes in the constitutional structure of the councils. By the amending Act of 1930, the system of nomination of councillors was completely done away with and representation was given to the minorities by means of reservation. A further amendment was made in 1933 when the system of appointment of commissioners was introduced. By 1950, all municipal councils were completely democratised.

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